

Message Text

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TRSE-00 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 CU-02 EB-08 COME-00
FRB-03 AGRE-00 STR-04 /095 W
-----132017Z 058864 /42

R 131801Z APR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2840
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 USNATO 2139

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC; PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

EO11652 GDS
TAGS CSCE EGEN SENV NATO XH
SUBJECT ECONADS: CSCE BASKET II THEMES FOR BELGRADE
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REF A. USNATO 1669

1. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED ENGLISH VERSION OF ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE'S
DRAFT PAPER (ED/EC/77/33) ON POSSIBLE BASKET II THEMES FOR BELGRADE.
TEST FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: NOTE BY THE DEPUTY ECONOMIC DIRECTOR
AT ITS SPECIAL MEETING ON 21ST MARCH, 1977, ATTENDED BY SENIOR
OFFICIALS FROM ALLIED COUNTRIES AND DEVOTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CSCE AND THE PREPARATION OF THE BELGRADE MEETINGS, THE

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WAS INVITED TO IDENTIFY FUNDAMENTAL THEMES OF MAJOR INTEREST TO THE ALLIANCE AND TO ILLUSTRATE THEM WITH SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF SHORTCOMINGS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT (BASKET II) BY THE EASTERN COUNTRIES. IT WAS ALSO INVITED TO SUGGEST CONCRETE MEASURES CALCULATED TO ENSURE FULLER APPLICATION BY THOSE COUNTRIES OF THE PROVISIONS OF BASKET II.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE COMMITTEE, DATED 24TH MARCH (AC/128-R/543), THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE HAS PREPARED THE ATTACHED INITIAL PAPER BASED ON THE THEMATIC APPROACH RECOMMENDED AT THE 21ST MARCH MEETING, AND TAKING ACCOUNT OF SUGGESTIONS BY CERTAIN DELEGATIONS.

3. IF THE COMMITTEE HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS APPROACH, OTHER NOTES WILL FOLLOW ON THEMES OF ITS CHOOSING.

CSCE - PREPARATION OF THE BELGRADE MEETINGS - BASKET II:

(A) THEME: FREER FLOW OF INFORMATION

1. ONE OF THE AIMS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT IS TO FACILITATE THE FREER FLOW OF INFORMATION. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE PROVISIONS OF BASKET II INCLUDE A SECTION ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION UNDER THE HEADING "COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES".

(B) ARGUMENTS

2. IN THE PERIOD WHICH HAD ELAPSED SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL ACT, IN AUGUST 1975, AND ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION VARIES FROM ONE CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY TO ANOTHER, PROGRESS BY THE EAST IS THE UNILATERAL IMPEL-
MENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION AND DISSEMI-
NATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION HAS, ON THE
WHOLE, BEEN MODEST AND EVEN DISAPPOINTING.

3. ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN THE EAST IS NOT
SUFFICIENT FOR A FULL AND OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS TO BE MADE OF MARKET
CONDITIONS IN THAT AREA. THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS PUBLISHED ARE
INCOMPLETE AND OFTEN VERY LATE IN APPEARING. THE BREAKDOWN OF DATA
IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY DISCRIMINATING FOR IMMEDIATE USE TO BE MADE
OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED.

4. IT HAS ALSO BEEN FOUND THAT OFFICIAL SERVICES IN THE EAST ARE
PARTICULARLY RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION - EVEN OF AN INNOCUOUS
KIND - WHICH HAS NOT ALREADY APPEARED IN PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS.

5. FOREIGN TRADE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS, AND CHANGES THERETO,
ARE NOT ALWAYS PUBLISHED AND IN ANY CASE ARE NOT TRANSLATED INTO
ANY OF THE OFFICIAL UNITED NATIONS LANGUAGES. THIS STATE OF
AFFAIRS CAN BE A HINDRANCE TO WESTERN BUSINESSMEN.

6. OTHER INFORMATION OF THE KIND WHICH COULD HELP BUSINESSMEN IN
THEIR COMMERCIAL DEALINGS, FOR EXAMPLE PERIODICAL DIRECTORIES, LISTS
AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS OF FIRMS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH
FOREIGN TRADE ARE NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE IN THE EASTERN COUNTRIES.

7. ADVERTISING BEING A STATE MONOPOLY, IT IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT -

EXCEPT IN SPECIFIC INSTANCES SUCH AS TRADE FAIRS - FOR WESTERN FIRMS
AND BUSINESSMEN TO USE THE MASS MEDIA AS A MEANS OF REACHING THE END

USERS IN THE EASTERN COUNTRIES.

(C) POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS:

8. A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE TO THE PRESENT SITUATION:

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FM USMISSION NATO
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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BERN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 USNATO 2139

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC; PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

(I) THE EASTERN COUNTRIES COULD, AS PROVIDED FOR IN BASKET II,
PREPARE THEIR FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS ON THE BASIS OF STANDARDISED
CLASSIFICATIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT COMPARISON BETWEEN THE STATISTICS
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OF THE DIFFERENT STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS WITH WESTERN
STATISTICS (BREAKDOWN BY PRODUCT WITH AN INDICATION OF VOLUME AND
VALUE AS WELL AS COUNTRY OR ORIGIN OR DESTINATION). STATISTICS
COULD BE WORKED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL

TRADE CLASSIFICATIONS (SITC) ADOPTED BY THE WEST.

(II) EQUIVALENTS SHOULD BE FOUND BETWEEN THE STATISTICAL NOMENCLATURE

USED BY THE EAST AND THE UNITED NATIONS NOMENCLATURE. THE EASTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE PERSUADED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE.

(III) STATISTICS ON PRODUCTION, NATIONAL INCOME, BUDGETS, CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTIVITY ARE DIFFERENTLY COMPILED BY THE VARIOUS EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND BY THE USSR. GENERALLY SPEAKING, HOWEVER, THERE IS SCOPE FOR MORE EXTENSIVE AND MORE DETAILED STATISTICS (PARTICULARLY ON HOURS OF WORK, HOURLY WAGE RATES BUDGETS, CONSUMPTION AND CONSUMER PRICES AND SO ON). SHORT-TERM STATISTICS (MONTHLY, QUARTERLY, HALF-YEARLY) SHOULD LIKEWISE BE PROVIDED ON DATA INDICATIVE OF ECONOMIC TRENDS AND WHICH COULD ALSO SERVE AS SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRITERIA. FURTHERMORE, IN THE CASE OF SOME COUNTRIES (ROMANIA AND BULGARIA FOR EXAMPLE) DATA PUBLISHED IN THE STATISTICAL YEARBOOKS ARE FAR FROM COMPLETE, TOO GENERAL AND TOO CLUSTERED.

(IV) A POSSIBLE MEANS OF OBTAINING BETTER DISSEMINATION OF FOREIGN TRADE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS WOULD BE TO INVITE THE EASTERN COUNTRIES TO SEND THE RELEVANT TEXTS TO THE ECE IN GENEVA WHICH WOULD BE MADE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING A MULTI-NATIONAL SYSTEM OF NOTIFICATION AND TRANSLATION OF THE DOCUMENTS CONCERNED INTO THE OFFICIAL UNITED NATIONS LANGUAGES (THE ECE COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE COULD BE ASKED TO GO INTO THIS QUESTION - SEE IN THIS CONNECTION THE REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECE, E/ECE/9-- DATED 13TH JANUARY, 1977).

(V) THE GENEVA ORGANIZATION COULD ALSO EXTEND ITS WORK ON THE HARMONISATION OF STATISTICAL DATA ON THE ECONOMY, DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS, TRADE, THE ENVIRONMENT AND SO ON. THE EASTERN COUNTRIES COULD BE INVITED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN THE ECE'S WORK IN THIS AREA.

(VI) TO FACILITATE THE PREPARATION BY THE EASTERN COUNTRIES OF DIRECTORIES, LISTS AND SO ON OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS AND FIRMS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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AN INTEREST IN FOREIGN TRADE, THE ALLIANCE COUNTRIES COULD SUGGEST CONTACTS BETWEEN THOSE WHO DO THIS TYPE OF WORK IN THE WEST AND THEIR OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN THE EAST AND, IF NEED BE, OFFER TO SUPPLY THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AT ATTRACTIVE RATES.

(D) RESOLUTION

9. THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES, IN A NOTE DATED 21ST MARCH, 1977 HAVE PROPOSED THE TEXT OF A "RESOLUTION" WHICH COULD BE TABLED BY THE ALLIANCE COUNTRIES AT BELGRADE IN ORDER TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR A GREATER DISSEMINATION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION AND FOR THE FULLER IMPLEMENTATION BY THE EAST OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF BASKET II. THIS "RESOLUTION", WHICH IS REPRODUCED BELOW, DOES NOT INTRODUCE ANYTHING NEW INTO THE CLAUSES OF THE FINAL ACT BUT IS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THEM.

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R 131801Z APR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2842
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 4 USNATO 2139

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC; PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

"THE PARTICIPATING STATES.

RECALLING THEIR AGREEMENT TO "PROMOTE THE PUBLICATION AND DISSEMI-
NATION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION ...",
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FURTHER RECALLING THE NEED OF EXPORTERS TO BE AS FULLY FAMILIAR
AS POSSIBLE WITH AND TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF POTENTIAL
USERS.

WILL ENDEAVOUR TO TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE PUBLICATION OF COMPRE-
HENSIVE DIRECTORIES OR ORGANIZATIONS, FIRMS AND ENTERPRISES
FURNISHING EXPORT OR IMPORT SERVICES, PRODUCING GOODS FOR EXPORT,
PROVIDING ECONOMIC OR COMMERCIAL SERVICES TO ORGANIZATIONS, FIRMS
OR ENTERPRISES OF ANOTHER PARTICIPATING STATE, OR UTILISING IMPORTED
GOODS OR SERVICES AND, IN PARTICULAR, CAPITAL GOODS.

RECOGNISE THAT SUCH DIRECTORIES SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY DETAILED TO
INCLUDE: NAME OF FIRM, MAILING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADDRESSES, BRIEF

DESCRIPTION OF FIRM'S ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, AND TITLE OF PERSON OR NAME OF OFFICE OR DEPARTMENT MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPORTS OR EXPORTS."

EXAMPLES OF SHORTCOMINGS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION BY THE EASTERN COUNTRIES OF THE PROVISIONS OF BASKET II RELATING TO THE DISSEMINATION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION

BULGARIA

1. THE STATISTICAL YEARBOOK COMES OUT VERY LATE (THE 1975 EDITION, PUBLISHED IN THE AUTUMN OF 1976, CARRIED DATA FOR 1974 ONLY). AS PUBLISHED, IT IS INADEQUATE AND NO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN THE FORM OF REGULAR, SHORT-TERM (MONTHLY AND QUARTERLY) BULLETINS.
2. FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS ARE INCOMPLETE AND AGAIN COME OUT VERY LATE. THE NUMBER OF COPIES PUBLISHED FALLS SHORT OF REQUIREMENTS. MOREOVER, AS FROM THIS YEAR THE PUBLICATIONS ARE NOT LONGER ON GENERAL SALE BUT ARE ONLY AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHERE THEY ARE STORED.
3. FOREIGN TRADE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS ARE NOT TRANSLATED.
4. DIRECTORIES, LISTS AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS OF FIRMS WITH AN INTEREST IN FOREIGN TRADE ARE NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

5. STATISTICAL SERIES ON MAJOR NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AGGREGATES NEED TO BE AMPLIFIED AND MORE DETAILED DOCUMENTATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED.
6. FOREIGN TRADE PUBLICATIONS DO NOT CARRY A DOUBLE AND SIMULTANEOUS BREAKDOWN OF TRADE IN VOLUME AND VALUE TERMS.

HUNGARY

7. NATIONAL ACCOUNTS STATISTICS ARE OF A RELATIVELY BETTER QUALITY THAN IN THE OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THE MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN DOES NOT INCLUDE DATA ON THE NATIONAL INCOME AND THE STATISTICAL YEARBOOK DOES NOT CARRY DATA ON THE BUDGET. TEXTS ACCOMPANYING THE TABLES ARE NOT ALWAYS TRANSLATED AND THIS CONSTITUTES A HINDRANCE TO THE PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THESE PUBLICATIONS IN THE WEST.
8. FURTHERMORE, DATA HANDLING METHODS ARE FREQUENTLY MODIFIED AND THIS MAKES COMPARISONS WITHIN A GIVEN TIMEFRAME PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT, PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS NO INDICATION AS TO WHETHER THE CALCULATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN CONSTANT OR IN CURRENT PRICES.

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 4 USNATO 2139

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC; PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

9. HUNGARY IS NOT PREPARED TO TRANSLATE ITS FOREIGN
TRADE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS INTO ONE OF THE OFFICIAL
UNITED NATIONS LANGUAGES.
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10. THERE IS A NEED FOR THE FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS
TO BE BROKEN DOWN SIMULTANEOUSLY IN VALUE AND IN VOLUME TERMS.

POLAND

11. NATIONAL ACCOUNTS STATISTICS ARE GOOD IN QUALITY
BUT MORE DETAILS WOULD BE APPRECIATED REGARDING THE
DIFFERENT SECTORS, BRANCHES AND SUB-BRANCHES OF THE ECONOMY.

12. IN THE CASE OF FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS, SITC ARE

ONLY APPLIED TO THE GENERAL CHAPTE HEADINGS.

13. DATA ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN ARE FRAGMENTARY AND NOT READILY AVAILABLE. THIS IS EQUALLY TRUE OF THE DIRECTORIES, LISTS AND ORGANIZATION CHARTS OF FIRMS WITH AN INTEREST IN FOREIGN TRADE ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS RESPECT. THE LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT THESE FIRMS IS NOT SO MUCH THE CONSEQUENCE OF DELIBERATE ACTION BUT OF THE INABILITY OF POLISH ORGANIZATIONS AND INDUSTRIES TO MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN ABROAD BY THE APPROPRIATE MEANS.

ROMANIA

14. THE STATISTICAL YEARBOOKS ARE RELATIVELY SKIMPY AND DO NOT PROVIDE DETAILED DATA ON THE MAJOR AGGREGATES.

15. FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS ARE INADEQUATE, INSUFFICIENTLY BROKEN DOWN AND THE FORMAT USED HAS LITTLE RELATION TO THE FORMAT USED IN THE WEST. A FOREIGN TRADE YEARBOOK WAS PUBLISHED IN 1973 AND IN 1974, BUT HAS NOT APPEARED SINCE.

16. ROMANIA DOES NOT PUBLISH DIRECTORIES OF FIRMS WITH AN INTEREST IN FOREIGN TRADE BUT THE CHAMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMERCE ISSUES A YEARLY GUIDE FOR FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN.

GDR

17. CERTAIN IMPORTANT INDICATORS ARE MISSING (HOURS OF WORK, HOURLY WAGE RATES IN THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THE ECONOMY, PRICES AND SO ON). SHORT-TERM PUBLICATIONS CARRYING SYSTEMATIC AND DETAILED INFORMATION ARE NON-EXISTENT.

18. THE AMOUNT OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON FOREIGN TRADE HAS BEEN CURTAILED SINCE 1976; SHORT-TERM DATA ARE NO LONGER BROKEN DOWN AS BETWEEN EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BUT SHOWN IN AGGREGATE.

19. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN SOVIET STATISTICAL YEARBOOKS PUBLISHED SINCE 1975. SHORT-TERM PUBLICATIONS COVER ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF CRITERIA AND PRODUCTS. BUDGET FIGURES ARE PUBLISHED YEARLY BUT ARE CONFINED TO THE BROAD CHAPTERS.

20. FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS ARE PUBLISHED FAIRLY LATE AND ARE NOT AS DETAILED AS THEIR WESTERN COUNTERPARTS. QUARTERLY STATISTICS HAVE ADMITTEDLY BEEN PUBLISHED SINCE 1976 BUT ONLY GIVE THE VALUE OF TRADE AND NOT THE BREAKDOWN BY PRODUCT.

21. THERE IS SOMETIMES A CONSIDERABLE DELAY IN THE
PUBLICATION OF FOREIGN TRADE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS.

22. THE DATA CONTAINED IN THE FIVE-YEAR PLANS AND
ANNUAL PLANS ARE INADEQUATE AND TOO GENERAL TO BE OF USE TO
BUSINESSMEN.

23. LISTS AND ORGANIZATION CHARTS OF SOVIET BODIES
RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN TRADE ONLY COME OUT AT IRREGULAR
INTERVALS. THEY ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY DETAILED TO ENABLE
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BUSINESSMEN TO MAKE CONTACT WITH END USERS.

END TEXT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR ECONADS. DEPT MAY ALSO WISH TO
USE ABOVE DRAFT IN PREPARING GUIDANCE FOR APRIL 20 NAC
DISCUSSION ON CSCE.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS MULTIPLE
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